GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:265
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2007
ASIA PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION FORUM (APEC)
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum(APEC) has denied membership in it to India though India has submitted an application for its membership;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any steps have been taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to obtain the membership of APEC during its next phase of expansion with a view to increasing its participation in world trade; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 265 FOR ANSWER ON 4TH DECEMBER, 2007 REGARDING `ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION FORUM(APEC)`

(a) to (d) No, Sir. India had applied for the membership of APEC in September 1991 on the eve of the 3rd APEC Ministerial meeting. At the 5th APEC Leaders` meeting in Vancouver in 1997, a decision was taken by the economic leaders to place a 10-year moratorium on the APEC membership. While re-visiting the membership issue at the APEC Summit meeting held in Sydney in September, 2007, it was decided through a Joint Declaration of economic leaders to continue with the moratorium on APEC membership till the year 2010. India`s position on joining APEC as a member has been that we would join APEC only if our membership is endorsed by consensus amongst all APEC members.